

REMARKS

Amendment to the Claims

In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 2, 3, 4 and 6. Accordingly, Claims 2-4 and 6 have been canceled.

Claim 13 was amended for purposes of clarification.

Claim 14 was amended to depend from Claim 1 and for purposes of clarification.

No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

After entry of the Amendment, Claims 1, 5 and 7-14 will be pending.

Response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Referring to paragraph no. 3 at page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1 and 7-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0149498 (“Rebello”).

Without acquiescence in the merits of the rejection, Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 2-4 and 6, which were not subject to the present rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1 and 7-14 based on Rebello.

(b) Referring to paragraph no. 5 at page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 2-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rebello as applied to Claims 1 and 7-14 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,558,605 (“Wilson”) taken together with either U.S. Patent No. 6,096,088 (“Yu”) or U.S. Patent No. 6,816,820 (“Friedl”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,454,973 (“Norton”).

Applicants traverse and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Independent Claim 1 of the present claimed invention recites *at least* the following three novel and non-obvious features:

- (1) A process parameter for determining an inflow of a resin material from a plurality of resin inflow conduits connecting with a cavity is used as a variable parameter for determining the mold clamping force;
- (2) The process parameter is a parameter which controls actions of valve gates located at the plurality of resin inflow conduits; and
- (3) Process parameters are optimized under the condition where at least one of the valve gates is opened at any spot of time during filing stage.

In contrast, Rebello, Wilson, Yu, Friedl and Norton, alone or in combination, do not disclose or fairly suggest feature (1) to (3) of the present claimed invention. Even if the references did disclose these three features of the present claimed invention (which they do not), the Examiner has failed to articulate an adequate rationale for combining the prior art to attain the claimed invention. Thus, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of Claims 2-14 based on Rebello, Wilson, Yu, Friedl and Norton.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Raucci
Registration No. 61,444

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 1, 2008